

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY MEETS WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICIALS AND
TOURS TORNADO DAMAGE IN DAVIE, FORSYTH & GUILFORD COUNTIES**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today met with local emergency response officials and conducted an aerial tour of tornado damage in Davie, Forsyth and Guilford counties that occurred late Thursday night and early Friday morning. On Friday, Easley dispatched preliminary damage assessment teams comprised of state and local officials to the three counties to begin the process of assessing damage.

“My concern is that the people who have lost their homes and businesses are able to get their lives back to normal as soon as possible,” said Easley. “The state is helping local governments assess the damages and we stand ready to help in any way we can. The local emergency response agencies did an outstanding job responding to their citizens’ needs and are moving rapidly to clean up the debris.”

State and local damage assessment teams will not have a complete tally of the damage until early next week. Preliminary assessments found Forsyth County had at least five homes destroyed, 12 with major damage and 33 with minor damage. In Guilford County, at least 39 residences and various businesses or industries had damages, including three planes at Piedmont Triad International Airport. Davie County reported two homes destroyed, one mobile home destroyed, and multiple structures with major and minor damages. Early indications are that most of the damage to homes is going to be covered by insurance. Emergency response and clean up costs for local governments will also be tallied to determine if state or federal aid might be available for local governments.

One person died and at least eight were injured. The fatality occurred in an auto accident caused by the storm. Several tractor-trailers and cars were blown off Interstate 40 and a section of the interstate was briefly closed due to the accidents and to remove damaged vehicles and debris. The interstate was re-opened by 9:00 Friday morning.

Downed trees and power lines caused tens of thousands of customers in the Triad region to lose power, but Duke Energy expected most power to be back up by late Friday evening.

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